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For Immediate Release

41st Annual AbilityFirst Gourmet Festival of Fall Event Honors Three Generations of Family Support

PASADENA, Calif. – On Sunday, October 4th, AbilityFirst will hold their 41st Annual Gourmet Festival of Fall at the home of Mary and Bill Urquhart of South Pasadena. The tasting event, sponsored by Union Bank and chaired by Greg Wood, will see guests enjoying gourmet cuisine, exquisite wine, and craft beer prepared by prominent local restaurants and California vintners and brewers. Hosting the event for the 2nd year will be Whit Johnson, co-anchor of NBC4's weekday morning newscast "Today in LA".

This year's event will honor the Frank family, who have been instrumental in establishing and supporting AbilityFirst. In 1926, members of The Los Angeles Rotary, including Rotarian Lawrence L. Frank, established what was then known as the Crippled Children's Society of Southern California. Lawrence served the organization as its founding chairman from 1926 to 1947.

"We are so fortunate for this opportunity to recognize the dedication and support of the entire Frank family," said Lori Gangemi, President and CEO of AbilityFirst, "and celebrate their critical role in creating AbilityFirst, as well as their generations of involvement in helping forward the mission."

The support of Lawrence, his son Richard N. Frank, daughter Lorraine F. Petitfils, and grandson Richard R. Frank, in working with AbilityFirst to create and build new programs, resulted in Camp Paivika (1947), the L.L. Frank Work Center (1964) and the Lawrence L. Frank Community Center (1968) which have served thousands of children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. Richard N., Lorraine, and Richard R. continued the family's legacy of service in leadership roles on the Board of Directors. Lawry's Restaurants, Inc., the family owned business, has also been integral in supporting AbilityFirst.

Proceeds from this year's Gourmet Festival of Fall will benefit our AbilityFirst locations throughout the San Gabriel Valley, including the Lawrence L. Frank Center, the Pasadena Work Center and our new program in Glendale.

About AbilityFirst

Since 1926 AbilityFirst, formerly Crippled Children's Society of Southern California, provides programs and services to help children and adults with disabilities reach their full potential. Through multiple locations across Southern California, they offer a broad range of employment, recreational and socialization programs as well as an accessible camp, Camp Paivika, for both children and adults. Visit www.abilityfirst.org

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